

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Don Young
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

Dear Representatives Grijalva, Haaland, Bishop and Young:

We are writing to convey our strong support for H.R. 1572, bipartisan legislation to support botanical sciences, develop a preference policy for the use of native seed in restoration activities, and support the use of regionally adapted native plant materials for restoration work on public lands.

We are commercial growers committed to addressing the need for an affordable and reliable supply of native seed and plant materials. Our industry has grown considerably in recent years and that growth – and the associated job creation – will benefit from a continued focus on the importance of native plant materials in restoration activities and by the creation and dissemination of procurement preference policies for the use of such materials.

As you know, diverse, resilient habitats are critical to the health of public lands, their use for identified public benefit purposes, their capacity to support critical pollinators, and the mitigation of threats posed by fire, erosion, disease and invasive plant species. Land restoration and maintenance approaches oriented around supporting native plant communities results in significant cost-savings in maintenance over time and promotes both environmental and economic goals. We are proud to be helping to support these objectives and appreciate very much the helping hand that H.R. 1572 will provide to these efforts.

We appreciate your consideration of this legislation and hope that you will be able to advance the bill in the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Jerry Benson

Matthew Benson
BFI Native Seeds, WA

Robby Henes
Southwest Seed, CO

Jack Pizzo
The Pizzo Group, IL and MI

Tom Kaye
Institute for Applied Ecology, OR and NM

John Osenbaugh
Osenbaugh's Prairie Seed Farms, IA

Dan Allen
Allendan Seed Company, IA
and
Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, IA

Renee O'Brien
Hoerr Nursery, IL

Dylan Levy-Boyd
Fourth Corner Nurseries, WA

Thomas (Bob) Pennington
Agua Fria Nursery, NM

Heidi Natura
Living Habitats, IL

Ingrid Wachtler
Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery, WA

David Chiappini
Chiappini Farm Native Nursery, FL

Tom Knezick
Pinelands Nursery & Supply, NJ

Alfred Romeu
Native and Uncommon Plants, FL

Donald S. Kenney
Painted Flower Farm, Inc., TX

Laura Dell-Haro
Little Beaver Nursery & Gardens LLC, NE

Barry Glick
Sunshine Farm and Gardens, WV

Sue Saari
Go Natives Now, OH

Mary McClelland
Glacier Oaks Nursery, IL

Tracy Twombly
Sow Wild Natives, MO